

Message Text

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PAGE 01 QUITO 04519 092243Z

73

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AEC-11 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 CIEP-02

COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11 FPC-01 H-03 INR-10 INT-08 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 OMB-01 PM-07 RSC-01 SAM-01 SCI-06

SP-03 SS-20 STR-08 TRSE-00 FEA-02 PA-04 PRS-01 USIE-00

SSO-00 NSCE-00 DRC-01 INRE-00 /154 W

----- 060445

O R 092228Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1684

INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

USCINCSO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE QUITO 4519

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, EC

SUBJ: DAMAGE TO TEXACO-GULF PIPELINE

REF: QUITO 4508

1. I SPOKE AFTERNOON JULY 9 TO MIKE A. MARTINEZ, GENERAL MANAGER,

TEXACO PETROLEUM CO., ABOUT THE DAMAGE TO THE PIPELINE

REPORTED REFTEL. HE DESCRIBED THE SITUATION AS "FAIRLY

BAD". SPECIFICALLY, HE SAID THAT:

A. THERE WERE SOME 15 LANDSLIDES ALONG THE PIPELINE ITSELF.

B. THE PIPELINE HAS A BREAK IN IT AT APPROXIMATELY KM 164

WEST OF LAGO AGRIA, WHERE THE LINE HAS BEEN DISPLACED

75 METERS FROM THE ROAD AND PUSHED INTO THE RIVER. HE EXPECTS

TO HAVE TO REPLACE ABOUT 800 FEET OF PIPE IN THAT AREA ALONE.

C. FIVE BRIDGES ARE OUT, THREE SMALL (15 TO 20 METER) BRIDGES,

ONE BRIDGE ACROSS THE COCO RIVER AT CANON DE LOS MONOS,

AND THE MAIN BRIDGE SOUTH OF THE PRODUCING AREA IN LAGO

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AGRIA WHICH CARRIED THE 26" LATERAL PIPELINE BRINGING IN

CRUDE FROM THE SOUTHERN FIELDS.

D. ALTHOUGH THERE IS NO ACCURATE INFORMATION ON HUMAN LOSSES, HE UNDERSTOOD THAT NINE PEOPLE HAVE LOST THEIR LIVES. OTHERS ARE STRANDED, BUT THE ECUADOREAN ARMY HAS BEEN ASSISTING IN EVACUATING SOME OF THEM BY HELICOPTER.

E. REPAIR OPERATIONS ARE ALREADY UNDERWAY. OTHER OIL COMPANIES IN THE AREA HAVE BEEN AIDING IN SETTING UP FERRIES ACROSS THE RIVERS TO SUPPLY OPERATIONS, PIPELINE EXPERTS ARE COMING FROM THE STATES, AND A BRIDGE EXPERT HAS ALREADY ARRIVED FROM COLOMBIA TO ASSIST IN RECONSTRUCTING THE BRIDGES.

2. ALTHOUGH MARTINEZ DOES NOT EXPECT TO HAVE FIRM ESTIMATES ON EITHER THE TIME OR COST INVOLVED IN REPAIR-ING THE DAMAGE UNTIL THE END OF THIS WEEK, HE BELIEVES THAT IT WILL REQUIRE AT LEAST A MONTH.

3. I HOPE TO ARRANGE FOR MISSION OFFICERS TO OVERFLY DAMAGE AREA TOMORROW TO OBTAIN FURTHER INFORMATION.

BREWSTER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PETROLEUM INDUSTRY, CONSTRUCTION, PETROLEUM PIPELINES, BRIDGES (STRUCTURES), OIL FIELDS, NATURAL DISASTERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 JUL 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: martinml
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974QUITO04519
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740182-0816
From: QUITO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740765/aaaacdhs.tel
Line Count: 81
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: QUITO 4508
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: martinml
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 SEP 2002 by cunninfx>; APPROVED <19 FEB 2003 by martinml>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DAMAGE TO TEXACO-GULF PIPELINE
TAGS: ENRG, SWEL, EC, TEXACO, GULF
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005